AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An assembly of:

a winch;

one or more threaded fastening elements; and

one or more retaining elements,

wherein the winch is for attachment to a surface of a watercraft using said threaded fastening elements in combination with one or more cooperating elements threadable on said threaded fastening elements, and wherein the winch has one or more apertures, each said threaded fastening element being retained in a respective one of said apertures and being held against rotation with respect to the winch up to a threshold torque by a respective one of said retaining elements, thereby allowing rotation of said threaded fastening element at torques higher than the threshold torque, wherein at least an engagement portion of the retaining element is jammed between the threaded fastening element and the aperture in the winch, protruding into said aperture.

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein the watercraft to which the winch is to be attached is a sailboat.

4. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said retaining element holds said fastening element with respect to the winch by frictional engagement with said fastening element and with said aperture.

5. (Original) An assembly according to claim 4 wherein said fastening element has a head and a shaft, said retaining element being located on said shaft, abutted at the opposite side of said aperture to said head, and wherein at least part of said shaft projects from said aperture.

6. (Original) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said threaded fastening element is a screw.

7. (Original) An assembly according to claim 6 wherein said retaining element is a lock washer.

8. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein said retaining element substantially prevents translational movement of the fastening element along the axis of the hole in the winch.

9. (Currently Amended) An assembly according to claim 1 wherein the ~~retaining element has an~~ engagement portion ~~which~~ provides additional securing of the fastening element with respect to the winch by being jammed ~~jamming~~ between the fastening element and the aperture in the winch.

10. (Currently Amended) An assembly of a sailboat winch and one or more screws and one or more lock washers, wherein the sailboat winch is for attachment to a deck of a sailboat using said screws in combination with one or more nuts, and

wherein the winch has one or more mounting apertures, each said screw being retained in a respective one of said apertures and being held against rotation with respect to the winch up to a threshold torque by a respective one of said lock washers, thereby allowing rotation of said screw at torques higher than the threshold torque, wherein at least an engagement portion of the lock washer is jammed between the screw and the aperture in the winch, protruding into said aperture.

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method of producing an assembly of:

a winch;

one or more threaded fastening elements; and

one or more retaining elements,

wherein the winch has one or more apertures,

the method including retaining each said threaded fastening element in a respective one of said apertures and holding said fastening elements against rotation with respect to the winch up to a threshold torque using a respective one of said retaining elements, wherein at least an engagement portion of the retaining element

is jammed between the threaded fastening element and the aperture in the winch, protruding into said aperture.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the winch includes a removable cover, the threaded fastening elements being assembled with the winch by removing the cover, the method including the subsequent step of replacing the cover before the winch is attached to a watercraft.

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 16 wherein the winch is a windlass.

19. (Previously Presented) An assembly according to claim 1 where said winch is a windlass.

20. (Currently Amended) An assembly of a sailboat windlass and one or more screws and one or more lock washers, wherein the sailboat windlass is for attachment to a deck of a sailboat using said screws in combination with one or more nuts, and wherein the windlass has one or more mounting apertures, each said screw being retained in a respective one of said apertures and being held against rotation with respect to the windlass up to a threshold torque by a respective one of said lock washers, thereby allowing rotation of said screw at torques higher than the threshold torque, wherein at least an engagement portion of the lock washer is jammed between the threaded fastening element and the aperture in the windlass, protruding into said aperture.